U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

40-HQ-74522 to 74921

COMPRESSED FILE

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

DO NOT DESTROY
HISTORICAL VALUE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

DO NOT DESTROY

FOIPA# 1080246

USE CARE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

Transfer-Call

b6
b7C

SHAW-WALKER 18-6489

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 09-27-2007 BY AUC 60324/BAW/RS/lbc

Italian Police Crack Dope Ring

ROME, April 1 (AP).—Italian police today disclosed they had arrested at least seven members of a dope ring, some whom were gangsters deported from the United States. The police acted in cooperation with United States Federal agents.

They have seized more than half a million dollars worth of drugs that were going to be shipped to the United States. The raids began 10 days ago and ranged from Milan to Sicily. One cache of heroin was found at a luxurious estate near Rome bought by Frank Coppola, once deported from the United States. He is now the subject of a country-wide manhunt.

The tipoff came after the arrest in San Diego, Calif., last September of Salvatore Vitale. He had entered the United States illegally from Alcamo, Sicily, where the first raid was made.

40-74639

40-74639-A

NOT RECORDED
136 APR 19 1952

Washington Post
April 2, 1952

69 APR 21 1952

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 09-27-2007 BY AUC 60324/BAW/RS/lbc

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

VISA DIVISION

CHECK SHEET

April 3, 1945

(date)

VISA APPLICANTS

COPPOLA, Frank P.

CLOSE RELATIVES IN UNITED STATES

None

SPONSORS

B Applicant,
3370 Hycianth Avenue,
Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

C [redacted]

C [redacted]

b6
b7C

JP

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 5 1945
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FIVE

RECORDED & INDEXED
REF: gm
40-7[illegible]39-1

ND-34

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 09-27-2007 BY AUC 60324/BAW/RS/lbc

May 8, 1945

EX-16

TO: VISA DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF STATE

In connection with the below entitled visa applicant case the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation reflect the following information.

Very truly yours,

CONFIDENTIAL

J. Edgar Hoover

b6
b7C

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

TITLE: FRANK P. COPPOLA - Visa Applicant
[redacted] - Sponsors
PASSPORTS AND VISAS

FRANK P. COPPOLA
3370 Hyclanth Avenue
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Visa Applicant

[redacted] another governmental agency advised in October, 1943, that Frank Paolo Coppola, [redacted] Baylis Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, was found not acceptable for training and service [redacted] Army of the United States. It was stated that records of a local law enforcement [redacted] reflected that Coppola was arrested July 1, 1931, in Los Angeles County, California, for possessing still liquor and was sentenced to three years probation, first thirty days in the County Jail, October 27, 1931. (100-125346-1186)

No investigation of Frank P. Coppola has been conducted by this Bureau.

Part B of Form BC is returned herewith.

MAILED 3
MAY 8 1945
FBI

BD-172

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 09-27-2007 BY 60324/BAW/RS/lbc

August 12, 1947

Honorable Fred S. LeBlanc
Attorney General
State of Louisiana
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

My dear Mr. Attorney General:

The copy of your telegram dated August 1, 1947, to the Bureau of Immigration Appeals, Washington, D. C., has been received. For your information, a check of the records of this Bureau fails to reveal that the letter concerning Frank Coppola has been presented in any form to the FBI.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE: Check of indices reflected a number of Frank Coppolas and some information concerning a Frank Coppola, who is an alien, but nothing was found that could be identified with the subject of Mr. LeBlanc's telegram. The matter mentioned is a deportation proceeding before the Bureau of Immigration Appeals and while the file is not clear it is probable the proceeding is being held by some agency other than the Bureau.

FEC:nrm

RECORDED & INDEXED 140-24

EX-30

EX-30

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
AUG 12 1947
P.M.

58 SEP 8

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
AUG 12 3
FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 09-27-2007 BY AUC 60324/BAW/RS/lbc

Charge to the account of

$

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED			
DOMESTIC		CABLE	
TELEGRAM		ORDINARY	
DAY LETTER		URGENT RATE	
SERIAL		DEFERRED	
OVERNIGHT TELEGRAM		NIGHT LETTER	
SPECIAL SERVICE		SHIP RADIOGRAM	

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise the message will be transmitted as a telegram or ordinary cablegram.

WESTERN UNION

1211-B

CHECK
ACCOUNTING INFORMATION
TIME FILED

R. B. WHITE, PRESIDENT
NEWCOMB CARLTON, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
AUGUST 1, 1947

BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION APPEALS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

IF LETTER BEARING MY SIGNATURE ADDRESSED QUOTE TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN UNQUOTE PERTAINING TO ONE FRANK COPPOLA HAS BEEN FILED WITH YOUR DEPARTMENT KINDLY DISREGARD SAME THIS LETTER HAVING BEEN OBTAINED BY MISTATEMENTS BY COPPOLA AND BY HIS SUPPRESSION OF HIS PRIOR RECORD STOP THIS PURELY FORMAL LETTER WAS GIVEN COPPOLA UPON HIS REPRESENTATION THAT HE WAS ABOUT TO TAKE A TRIP AND THAT SUCH LETTER MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO HIM FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES WHILE ON SAID TRIP STOP THE FACTS AS STATED THEREIN ARE BASED ON MY KNOWLEDGE OF HIM FOR SEVERAL YEARS DURING MY CASUAL ACQUAINTANCESHIP WITH HIM AS A BATON ROUGE BUSINESS MAN AND RESIDENT OF SAID CITY WHERE HE OWNED HIS OWN HOME AND UPON HIS FURTHER REPRESENTATION THAT HE WAS A GOOD CITIZEN IN BATON ROUGE, A FACT WHICH I VERIFIED THROUGH THE CHIEF OF POLICE STOP BELIEVE YOU APPRECIATE HAD I KNOWLEDGE OR INFORMATION OF FACTS IN YOUR POSSESSION AND THE PENDENCY BEFORE YOUR BOARD OF DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS SUCH LETTER WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN WRITTEN STOP IF THIS LETTER IS IN YOUR FILES YOUR REGULATIONS PERMITTING PLEASE RETURN IT TO ME STOP WIRE ANSWER COLLECT CARE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA STOP AM MAILING COPY THIS TELEGRAM TO HONORABLE TOM C. CLARK, UNITED STATES ATTORNEY GENERAL AND HONORABLE J. EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOR THEIR INFORMATION.

FRED S. LE BLANC
ATTORNEY GENERAL

mmd
ack 8-12-47
7EC

1-2

ENCLOSURE

ALL MESSAGES TAKEN BY THIS COMPANY ARE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS:

To guard against mistakes or delays, the sender of a message should order it repeated, that is, telegraphed back to the originating office for comparison. For this, one-half the unrepeated message rate is charged in addition. Unless otherwise indicated on its face, this is an unrepeated message and paid for as such, in consideration whereof it is agreed between the sender of the message and this Company as follows:

1. The Company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any message received for transmission at the unrepeated-message rate beyond the sum of five hundred dollars; nor for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any message received for transmission at the repeated-message rate beyond the sum of five thousand dollars, unless specially valued; nor in any case for delays arising from unavoidable interruption in the working of its lines; nor for errors in cipher or obscure messages.
2. In any event the Company shall not be liable for damages for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for the non-delivery, of any message, whether caused by the negligence of its servants or otherwise, beyond the actual loss, not exceeding in any event the sum of five thousand dollars, at which amount the sender of each message represents that the message is valued, unless a greater value is stated in writing by the sender thereof at the time the message is tendered for transmission, and unless the repeated-message rate is paid or agreed to be paid, and an additional charge equal to one-tenth of one per cent of the amount by which such valuation shall exceed five thousand dollars.
3. The Company is hereby made the agent of the sender, without liability, to forward this message over the lines of any other company when necessary to reach its destination.
4. Domestic messages and incoming cable messages will be delivered free within one-half mile of the Company's office in towns of 5,000 population or less, and within one mile of such office in other cities or towns. Beyond these limits the Company does not undertake to make delivery, but will, without liability, at the sender's request, as his agent and at his expense, endeavor to contract for him for such delivery at a reasonable price.
5. No responsibility attaches to this Company concerning messages until the same are accepted at one of its transmitting offices; and if a message is sent to such office by one of the Company's messengers, he acts for that purpose as the agent of the sender.
6. The Company will not be liable for damages or statutory penalties in any case where the claim is not presented in writing to the Company within sixty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission; provided, however, that this condition shall not apply to claims for damages or overcharges within the purview of Section 415 of the Communications Act of 1934.
7. It is agreed that in any action by the Company to recover the tolls for any message or messages the prompt and correct transmission and delivery thereof shall be presumed, subject to rebuttal by competent evidence.
8. Special terms governing the transmission of messages according to their classes, as enumerated below, shall apply to messages in each of such respective classes in addition to all the foregoing terms.
9. No employee of the Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

3-40

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY
INCORPORATED
R. B. WHITE, PRESIDENT

CLASSES OF SERVICE

DOMESTIC SERVICES

TELEGRAMS
A full-rate expedited service.

DAY LETTERS
A deferred service at lower than the standard telegram rates.

SERIALS
Messages sent in sections during the same day.

OVERNIGHT TELEGRAMS
Accepted up to 2 A.M. for delivery not earlier than the following morning at rates substantially lower than the standard telegram or day letter rates.

SHIP RADIOGRAMS
A service to ships at sea, in all parts of the world. Plain language or code language may be used.

CABLE SERVICES

ORDINARIES
The standard service, at full rates. Code messages, consisting of 5-letter groups only, at a lower rate.

DEFERREDS
Plain-language messages, subject to being deferred in favor of full-rate messages.

NIGHT LETTERS
Overnight plain-language messages.

URGENTS
Messages taking precedence over all other messages except government messages.

THERE IS A SPECIAL LOW-RATE WESTERN UNION SERVICE FOR EVERY SOCIAL NEED

Telegrams of the categories listed at the right, to any Western Union destination in the United States

TELEGRAMS OF PRESCRIBED FIXED TEXT—	25¢
TELEGRAMS OF SENDER'S OWN COMPOSITION. First 15 words	35¢
LOCAL CITY TELEGRAMS	20¢
TOURATE TELEGRAMS, for TRAVELERS. First 15 words (Additional Words, 2½¢ each)	35¢

GREETINGS AT
Christmas, New Year, Easter, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Jewish New Year, Thanksgiving

CONGRATULATIONS ON
Anniversaries, Weddings, Birthdays, Commencement, Birth of a Child

MISCELLANEOUS
Bon Voyage telegrams, "Pep" telegrams, Kiddiegrams (No 35¢ rate)

ASK AT ANY WESTERN UNION OFFICE OR AGENCY FOR FULL INFORMATION

Back of telegram

MR. JONES
MAR 12 10 28 AM '47
RECEIVED
F B I
DEPT OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 09-27-2007 BY AUC 60324/BAW/RS/lbc

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICES OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
Baton Rouge 4

FRED S. LeBLANC
ATTORNEY GENERAL

W. C. PERRAULT
FIRST ASSISTANT
ATTORNEY GENERAL
ROBERT R. REID
SECOND ASSISTANT
ATTORNEY GENERAL

August 18, 1947

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 12, 1947, acknowledging receipt of a copy of my telegram of August 1, 1947, addressed to the Bureau of Immigration Appeals, and advising that a check of your records failed to reveal that the letter concerning Frank Coppola had been presented in any form to the FBI.

Thanking you for this information and with best wishes and kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,

Fred S. LeBlanc

Attorney General

FSL:eak

RECORDED 40-7639-3
EX-30

RECEIVED-TAMM
F B I
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
AUG 21 4 24 PM '47

RECEIVED DIRECTOR
F B I
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
AUG 21 1 39 PM '47

PERS. FILES

SAC, San Diego

July 18, 1950

Director, FBI

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~
AIR MAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY

FRANCISCO PAOLA COPPOLA
INFORMATION CONCERNING

In connection with the activities of the Special Senate Committee Investigating Crime in Interstate Commerce, under the Chairmanship of Senator Estes Kefauver, the Bureau has agreed, as a cooperative measure, to interview the above-captioned individual who is now residing in a motel at 1012 Revolution Street in Tijuana, Mexico, for the purpose of securing information in his possession concerning crime in the United States, principally in Kansas City and New Orleans.

It is, therefore, desired that you designate two experienced Special Agents to contact Coppola and secure from him any information which he might desire to make available. If possible, information furnished by him should be reduced in writing in the form of a statement by him but such statement should not be in the usual Bureau form and no mention should be made as to the individuals to whom he makes the statement. The statement should be in the first person and should recite that it is being furnished voluntarily by him.

For the assistance of the Agents handling this assignment there is being enclosed herewith a mimeographed copy of a story which was prepared by Ted Link, a reporter for the St. Louis Post Dispatch, which story has not been published to date but which gives a great deal of information concerning Coppola. There is also being enclosed herewith a copy of the criminal record of this individual, together with a memorandum containing information appearing in the files of the Bureau.

This matter should be handled on a strictly confidential basis and in an expeditious manner. Your communication advising of the result of the contact with Coppola should be addressed to the attention of Mr. L. B. Nichols, Assistant Director.

RECORDED - 5 SE 27 40-14639-4

INDEXED - 50

JUL

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
FBI
RECEIVED - DIRECTOR

Tolson
Ladd
Clegg
Glavin
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Harbo
Mohr
Tele. Room
Nease
Gandy

TECH:LH

Enclosure

Comp. # 252280

JUL 19 11 00 AM '56

RECEIVED-MAIL ROOM
FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
BOSTON

JUL 20 9 30 AM '56

FBI
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

b6
b7C

FRANCISCO PAOLA COPPOLA
FBI NUMBER 549933

The records of Local Draft Board No. 34, Detroit, Michigan, reflect that Frank Paola Coppola, order No. 10498, resided at 3370 Hyacinth Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 1946. At the time of registering for the draft he resided at 15503 Baylis Street, Detroit. He was born in Partinico, Palermo, Italy, on October 6, 1899. At the time of registering for the draft he was employed as a contact and good-will man for the Detroit Italian Baking Company, 10932 Shoemaker Avenue, at $25.00 per week. According to his statement, [redacted] *resided in Italy with* [redacted] *The Draft Board file reflected that Coppola is not a United States citizen but that he had filed a declaration to become a citizen in Los Angeles in 1930. In Coppola's questionnaire he stated that he had never been convicted of a felony and thought he should be classified 1-A adding "very happy to serve this wonderful country."*

Coppola's personal history statement dated July 28, 1942, which was a part of his Selective Service file, indicated that he held alien registration number 455925, and that he had entered the United States as Frank Paola Coppola. It was indicated that he was sentenced to serve 30 days in Los Angeles for "moonshining" in 1930. The statement indicated that he had lived in Rockford, Illinois, from November 1926 to July 1929; in Detroit, Michigan, from July 1929 to August 1929; in Los Angeles, California, August 1929 to May 1931; at 15503 Baylis Street, Detroit, Michigan, May 1931, to 1942. The personal history statement reflects that he was employed by the Detroit Italian Baking Company from 1937 to 1942.

A check with the local Immigration and Naturalizatio Service, in Detroit, Michigan, reflected a file on Frank Coppola, Detroit INS file No. 8517-4270. It was learned that the Detroit Office of Immigration and Naturalization Service files reflected that Coppola was under deportation proceedings as of December 26, 1945.

lson_____
id_____
ugg_____
avin_____
chola_____
son_____
acy_____
rbo_____
hr_____
le. Room_____
ase_____
ndy_____
_____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/15 BY SP4 elw/slm
Comp. # 252280

A description of Coppola as obtained from his Local Draft Board in 1946 was as follows:

Age	46 (in 1946)
Date of birth	October 6, 1899
Place of birth	Partinico, Palermo, Italy
Height	5 feet
Weight	155 pounds
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Brown
Complexion	Dark
Scars and marks	3rd and 4th fingers missing from left hand.

b6
b7C

62-81093-Sub. 15
Serial 31, page 11

The New Orleans office in October 1946, advised that Francisco Paola Coppola had long been suspected of engaging in dope smuggling by the Narcotics Bureau; that he was at that time in this country illegally having been allegedly smuggled in through Florida in 1926. On June 10, 1946, the Immigration and Naturalization Service passed a resolution stating that Coppola must leave this country within six months.

Under the alias of Mike Barbaro, Coppola was indicted by the United States Attorney in Los Angeles on March 2, 1932, which case was later dismissed by the United States Attorney because of the unlikelihood of capture of the subject. Coppola was alleged to have been friendly with and engaged in business connection with [redacted]

62-75147-33
Serial 39, page 36

ENCLOSURE

40 - 74631 - 1

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 09-27-2007 BY AUC 60324/BAW/RS/lbc

Brendon

[redacted]

b6
b7C

This can get taken up by
Ted Leine of M. L. Post dispatch.
It hasn't been printed — It has all
we can get together on.

Francis Coppola — and ~~Jack~~ Sylvester
Carollo — I appreciate so much Mr. Hoover
and your willing to get him
down on them — I hope you
may be able to soon.

Regards
Tim McCoy

(OM)

We are getting off to a good
start here →

40-19637-4 3

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 09-27-2007 BY AUC 60324/BAW/RS/lbc

Binaggio ---

Charles Binaggio, slain Kansas City gang leader, was interesting himself in the deportation case of a notorious top-flight Italian gangster and leader in the Mafia who was once associated with Frank Costello of New York, so-called "prime minister of the underworld," in slot machine operations in Louisiana, the Post-Dispatch has learned.

The deportation case, one of the major ones in recent years, involved Frank Coppola, alias "Three-Fingers Frank" Polo and Francisco Paola Cappola, who makes his headquarters now in a motel at 1012 Revolution street in Tijuana,Mexico, across the border from San Diego,Cal. Coppola is one of the top men in the Unione Siciliano, Italian secret organization with members scattered throughout the world, commonly known as the Mafia.

The gangster is reported to still be receiving monthly checks derived from the slot machine racket in Louisiana with Costello recently admitted having been connected with. Coppola lives in Mexico on a visa granted by the Mexican government to "study agriculture and mining".

(set blfc)

The Senate crime investigating committee, headed by Senator Estes Kefauver of Tennessee, has been reported in Washington as turning its attention to the operations in the United States of the Sicilian Mafia. The name of Costello was connected with the Mafia in testimony in a narcotics case in New York four years ago. Costello denied the Mafia connection and asserted he "detested the narcotics racket and everyone connected with it."

Binaggio aided Coppola, who used the names of Polo and Frank Lomonde when he lived in St. Louis in the early 1930's, in his efforts to resist deportation and was on Coppola's $2000,deportation bond before the hoodlum's last deportation case in May 1949.

(end blfc)

more

b6
b7C

first add Binaggio

Senator Kefauver said this week that H. J. Anslinger, United States Narcotics Commissioner, had furnished the Senate committee with information about the Mafia and its operations.

"I can't discuss the testimony in detail," Kefauver related, "but Anslinger's testimony will be a big help in our drive against organized crime." He added that the Senate crime investigators are seeking information on the immigration and citizenship records of known and supported criminals and big-time gamblers in the search for links with the Mafia.

Last summer, after the August primary, when Binaggio was one of his fhief lieutenants, [redacted] now serving a sentence in Leavenworth Prison for vote fraud, accompanied by their wives and [redacted] vacationed in the West, they visited Coppola at the motel where he lives in Tijuana. The Binaggio party continued on to Acapulco,Mexico, where Sylvester Carollo, another deported New Orleans and San Francisco hoodlum, makes his headquarters. Binaggio is reported to have purchased a home in Acapulco.

Attention was directed to Coppola and a group of Sicilians, most of them from Palermo, Sicily, living in the Tijuana Motel late last February 28 when [redacted] was arrested in the Cadillac sedan of [redacted] gangster, near the motel.

[redacted] told Mexican police he was in the slot machine business in St. Louis -- [redacted] - and was in Mexico on business. Slot machines are not allowed in Mexico in the Tijuana area.

[redacted] did not have the title to the automobile in his possession and he was forced to spend several nights in the local jail while ownership was being established through Missouri authorities. Mexican officers said [redacted] wept with rage and disgust when he was locked up despite all of Coppola's efforts in his behalf.

more

b6
b7C

second add Binaggio

On orders of Tijuana [redacted] the motel was raided by officers under Detective Capt. [redacted] and more than a dozen Italians taken into questioning for custody, including Coppola and Carollo. Capt. [redacted] found that a number of the men were fresh arrivals from Sicily and that most of them had been arrested there on white slave charges, although no convictions showed against them.

Among those arrested were [redacted] Giacomo Corona, [redacted] Sebastian Gallo, formerly of Detroit but now living at Oceanside, Cal., and Frank Bompenseiro, tavern owner of San Diego and a business associate of Jack Dragna, known as the "Capone of Los Angeles."

The officers questioned the men regarding narcotics and smuggling across the border of "wetbacks," (Mexicans who cross illegally). The Border Patrol of the Immigration & Naturalization Service at Chula Vista was notified of the character of the men with Coppola and also investigated the group but no charges could be placed against them.

When Binaggio was murdered April 5, the small group of men scattered. Coppola flew to Mexico City, Carollo went to Acapulco, [redacted] and [redacted] were caught Apr. 5 at San Ysidro, Cal., crossing the border illegally, and are now detained at Camp Elliot near San Diego with other persons waiting deportation. The others, except Bompenseiro, left the area.

Despite his deportation, Coppola had hopes of getting back in the United States legally. He is quoted as having told friends he "would give my right arm" to return to the United States. Coppola donated funds to Binaggio for the Missouri political campaign in the hope he would be able to return.

more

b6
b7C

Third add Binaggio

[redacted] and [redacted] were among a group of St. Louisans who donated heavily to the campaign in the hope that the "green light" would be flashed for gambling in Misscuri. The Post-Dispatch has learned that the hoodlums borrowed the money from a wealthy Italian merchant of St. Louis.

(set blfc)

[redacted] owed Binaggio approximately $2500 at the time of the slaying. While it is not known what the loan was for, it can be disclosed for the first time that it was to try and collect this money and hold it against possible income tax penalties that the Government authorities at Kansas City placed a lien against any Binaggio holdings in St. Louis last month.

Whether the $2500 was a personal loan or was the result of a business deal could not be learned. The [redacted] group, however, are known to have sat in on the notorious Hyde Park Club conference several weeks before Binaggio's murder. It was at this meeting that a number of gangsters stated "that damned Dago can't push us around." It was also at this meeting that the Hoodlums discussed "how good things were going in New Orleans but that matters had gone sour at Hot Springs." Apparently they were speaking of some of their illicit enterprises.

(end blfc)

Coppola was first deported in 1948 via Boston. The Immigration & Naturalization Service of the Department of Justice tried to keep Coppola from returning to this country on a temporary visa in 1949, but Coppola managed to obtain the visa through Binnagio and the help of his attorneys.

Agents of the Intelligence Unit of the Internal Revenue Department were not averse to Coppola's return to the United States on the temporary visa, for they wanted to attempt to collect $8000 due the Government in connection with income tax evasions. The revenue agents did collect $2000 of the $8000 which was represented in the $2000 bond that Binaggio had signed. The bond, whether it represented money put up by

b6
b7C

Coppola or Binaggio, was nevertheless in Binaggio's name, and it was turned over to the Government to partially satisfy the income tax claim.

When Coppola re-entered the United States on his temporary visa, he returned to Kansas City and lived at the Pickwick Hotel. He resumed his contacts with Binaggio and also his meetings with the St. Louis [redacted] group at Billy Rich's Jungle Club, rendezvous in Kansas City for the St. Louis-Kansas City gangs.

When Coppola was first arrested on a deportation warrant in 1947, in Kansas City, where he had fled from New Orleans, he retained [redacted] arranged for Coppola to voluntarily leave the country and stay out for a year before making a new application to enter the United States, the Post-Dispatch learned.

Coppola became impatient after about six months and disregarded the lawyer's advice. He put his deportation case in the hands of [redacted] who also failed to effect his return to the United States.

A few week's before Binaggio's murder, Coppola wrote mutual friends of his and Binaggio's in Kansas City and asked for the return of any of the papers in the hands of [redacted] and Binaggio, regarding his deportation case.

While writing in Italian, Coppola never failed to pass on his "regards to [redacted] In his last letters asking for return of his papers, Coppola asked that the papers be forwarded to the Hotel Caesar in Tijuana, as he had engaged another lawyer.

[redacted] commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, would not permit inspection of the files under a rule of the Department of Justice. The Kansas City office of the service also declined to permit inspection of the file.

(set blfc)

The Post-Dispatch learned, however, that in March Coppola engaged a prominent New York law firm to represent him. A former member of the law firm is now a

b6
b7C

top Government official in Washington, and while he does not have anything to do with deportation cases, is in a position of power.

[redacted], could not find any record of issuing a visa for Coppola. Records in Mexico, however, show that Coppola is living in Mexico on a visa issued by the Mexican consul at Kansas City, while Carollo has a visa issued by the Mexican consul at San Francisco.

Coppola's record ranges from a homicide in 1919 in Palermo, Sicily, to bootlegging in the United States. Government reports indicate he came to the United States illegally from Cuba in 1926. The diminutive hoodlum— he is not quite five feet in height— engaged in the produced racket in Detroit, bootlegging in Los Angeles in the 1930's, and was sought for extortion for a number of years in kidnapings in Peoria and Rock Island, Ill. in 1933 when he was using the name of Angelo Vota.

As Frank Lomonde he was arrested in St Louis County in connection with the murder of Deputy Constable George B. Adams on Natural Bridge road near Lindbergh boulevard on April 5, 1934. Arrested with him were [redacted] of a farm on which a whiskey still was in operation, Frank (Jack LaManna, who died of peritonitis after he had been questioned in the killing, [redacted] of the [redacted] group. The murder was never solved.

Coppola was operating the Lincoln Park tavern near St. Peter's in St.Charles County at the time of the killing, and most of the arrests were made in his establishment. At the time Coppola gave his age as 28 and his home address as Kansas City, Mo.

Coppola went to New Orleans in 1943 and teamed up with Sylvester Carollo, a narcotics racketeer, and they bought an interest in a Morgan City oyster company. In 1944 Coppola bought an interest in the Louisiana Novelty Company at Baton Rouge,

b6
b7C

which distributed slot machines and pinball machines to 43 "stops".

When the Immigration authorities got after him in 1945 he sold the novelty company but bought it back in 1947. He maintained he made only a modest living from the company but agents of the Internal Revenue Department disputed this.

Coppola was associated with Costello, Phil (Dandy Phil) Kastel, operators of the Beverly Club in New Orleans, and with [redacted] big-time Louisiana gambler. Costello's name was linked with Coppola's novelty company at one time.

Kastel and [redacted] are on record now as the owners of the Louisiana Mint Co., distributors of slot and pinball machines in New Orleans and throughout the state.. Kastel, a former New York gambler, has been one of Costello's chief lieutenants for many years. Costello has admitted his gambling operations in Louisiana but has minimized them.

Binaggio was a frequent visitor to New Orleans when Coppola was operating there. When on visits to St. Louis, both Coppola and Binaggio contacted the reported head,of the Mafia, a North St. Louis Italian who operates an undertaking company.

The St.Louis Italian, an associate of James Balestrere of Kansas City, reported Mafia head there, secured quarters for Italian gang leaders from the Mayfield gang of Cleveland, the Capone gang of Chicago, the [redacted] gang of Denver and the Binaggio gang at Kansas City, at swank West End hotels, when a relative of [redacted] died here last March.

No records of the men having stayed in St. Louis were available, although the other cities reported that the goodlums had gone to St. Louis for a funeral. It was learned that the north St. Louis Italian got around this possibility by simply renting rooms or suites in his name and paying the bill himself.

Balestrere has been under investigation by the Federal grand jury at Kansas City for a number of months. He has appeared innumerable times before that body as a

seventh add Binaggio

witness. While his name is known from coast to coast as avital power in the Mafia in the middle west, Balestrere insists to newspaper reporters that he is a "simple business man." He admits to having some minor gambling interests with Binaggio in the past.

# # #

/s/ LINK

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 09-27-2007 BY AUC 60324/BAW/RS/lbc

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

DATE: August 7, 1950

FROM : Mr. Nichols

SUBJECT: FRANCISCO PAOLA COPPOLA

Tolson ✓
Ladd
Clegg
Glavin
Nichols
Rosen ✓
Tracy
Harbo
Belmont
Mohr
Tele. Room
Nease

I advised Senator Kefauver that we had endeavored to locate Coppola in Tijuana, Mexico, pointing out to him that Coppola had departed Tijuana on May 8, 1950, leaving no forwarding address; that there was some information that he was in Acapulco or Mexico City, that this was not specific and accordingly, in the absence of more detailed information, there was nothing else we could do. I did give Senator Kefauver those portions of the letter from the San Diego Office on February 2-3-4 summarizing the contents of a report from the San Diego Police Department. He understands that he is not to use this for purposes other than leads.

LBN:MP

b6
b7C

RECORDED - 104

140 1469-5

55 AUG 22 1950

AUG 9 5 34 PM '50
RECEIVED-TOLSON
F B I
U S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
ROSEN
AUG 10 1 50 PM '50
F B I
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

DECLASSIFIED BY AUC 60324/BAW/RS/lbc
ON 09-27-2007

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI ATTENTION: L.B.NICHOLS Assistant Director DATE: 7-21-50

FROM : SAC, San Diego

SUBJECT: FRANCISCO PAOLA COPPOLA
INFORMATION CONCERNING

b6
b7C

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

AIR MAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY

Reference is made to your communication of July 18, 1950, entitled as above, requesting interview of FRANCISCO PAOLA COPPOLA, stated to be residing in a motel at 1012 Revolucion Street, Tijuana, B.C., Mexico.

SA's [redacted] and [redacted] on July 21, 1950, ascertained the following information:

At the Tijuana Motel, 1012 Avenida Revolucion, Tijuana, B.C., Mexico, [redacted] advised that FRANCISCO PAOLA COPPOLA had resided there from July 9, 1949, to May 8, 1950. He stated that COPPOLA had not given any forwarding address, and that in fact he had not stated that he was leaving town. [redacted] did state, however, that he personally thought that COPPOLA left Tijuana because after his original arrest by the Tijuana Police Department the officers of that Department continued to reinterview him at frequent intervals.

[redacted] also verified the fact that the other Italians who had been residing at the motel with him, whose names he could not recall, had also left Tijuana. He recalled that one of these persons was [redacted]

Sgt. [redacted] San Diego Police Department Liaison Officer with Tijuana Police Department, who is familiar with COPPOLA'S activities in Tijuana, related that he had heard that COPPOLA received a long-distance telephone call very shortly after the BINAGGIO murder in Kansas City. [redacted] said that soon after receiving this call COPPOLA left Tijuana. The details of the call are not known.

[redacted] Tijuana Police Department, advised the Agents that he had seen COPPOLA on the streets of Tijuana once or twice since his arrest in February, 1950, and had heard from some source, which he does not now recall, that COPPOLA had departed for Acapulco or Mexico City, Mexico.

FEW:LL
94-27

Nichols
11/29

RECEIVED-NICHOLS
F B I
DEPT OF JUSTICE
5 18 PM '50

b6
b7C

b6
b7C

Director, FBI 7-21-50

Other confidential informants and sources were questioned, under suitable pretext, concerning COPPOLA and his present whereabouts. None could furnish any definite information.

With reference to the mention made above of the other Italians with COPPOLA and their arrest in Tijuana, the following information was contained in a report of the San Diego Police Department:

"In May, 1949, the U.S. Immigration Service deported FRANCISCO PAOLA CAPPOLA, Italian, 50 years, 5 feet, 160 pounds, black hair, brown eyes, third and little fingers of left hand amputated, nickname 'Three Fingers Frank' and SILVESTRO CARROLLO. Is is said that both CAPPOLA and CARROLLO were Kansas City, Missouri, hoodlums.

"Recently it was learned that [redacted] San DiegoPolice Department [redacted] Los Angeles Police Department [redacted] was making visits to Tijuana to see CAPPOLA and CARROLLO and on one occasion was observed to pass a large sum of money to one of these subjects. It was later learned that a number of other Italians were living with CAPPOLA.

"During the latter part of February, 1950, a 1949 Cadillac, two-door sedan, Missouri license 317-318, was observed parked in the driveway of the Tijuana Motel, 1000 Revolution Avenue, which is the location where these Italians reside. Through the cooperation of the FBI, it was learned that this Cadillac is [redacted] who is the [redacted] All [redacted] are known to the St. Louis police as burglars and stick-up men and have lengthy criminal records.

"On February 28, 1950, [redacted] of the Tijuana Police Department, stopped the above described Cadillac and found it to be driven by one [redacted] who resides at [redacted] stated that the car was owned by the [redacted] and that [redacted] When asked what this business consisted of, he stated 'slot machines' and submitted a business card for the ANTHONY NOVELTY AND VENDING COMPANY, 1523 Olive Street, St. Louis, Missouri. He stated that he had been in Mexico for fifteen days. He is described as [redacted] years, [redacted] A

b6
b7C

Director, FBI 7-21-50

"wire to the St. Louis FBI office disclosed that [redacted] is [redacted] a known narcotics peddler and hoodlum. Fingerprints and photograph obtained.

"The Tijuana Police then picked up the rest of the Italians residing in the Tijuana Motel, fingerprinted and questioned them. They are as follows:

"SEBASTIANO GALLO, FPC 13/ 10/2 U/U IIO/III 15., 53 years of age, 5 feet 3½ inches, dark brown hair, brown eyes, 155 pounds, born in Palermo, Italy, May 15, 1897. GALLO stated that he had been in Tijuana only one day; that he lived at 1425 Sutter Street, San Diego, and that he peddles produce for a living. GALLO is a naturalized citizen, having been naturalized in Detroit on September 19, 1927, Certificate No. 2576824. It was found that GALLO was carrying a permit from [redacted] of San Diego to carry a concealed weapon. The files of the San Diego Police Department reflect that GALLO was first fingerprinted on June 14, 1948, as an applicant for a liquor license to do business at the Belmont Beer Parlor, 1017 University Avenue, San Diego. On October 13, 1947, he purchased a gun in San Diego, and on August 29, 1949, applied for a solicitor's permit to peddle produce. No arrest shown on his record.

[redacted]

"GIACOMO CORONA, Italian, 42 years, 5 feet 8 inches, born in Trapani, Italy, October 22, 1907. He stated that he has resided in Tijuana for the past nine months and gave his address as 350 9th Street, Tijuana, Mexico. It was found that this subject has made application for a visa to enter the United States and in this connection furnished considerable information to the American Consul in Tijuana. He is

[redacted]

b6
b7C

Director, FBI 7-21-50

"is [redacted] years of age. CORONA has relatives residing at [redacted] Records further reveal that CORONA was arrested in Palermo, Italy, three times on traffic violations, and on May 13, 1941, was acquitted on a White Slavery charge in Palermo.

[redacted]

"All of the above mentioned subjects were released by the Tijuana Police after questioning and fingerprinting. The Cadillac was held by the [redacted] for proof of ownership. Shortly after their apprehension, by [redacted] of the Mexican Immigration Office appeared fronting for all of the above individuals."

For detailed background data and activities of FRANK BOMPENSIERO, reference should be had to the April and July, 1950, Crime Surveys submitted by the San Diego Division.

Sgt. [redacted] advised the Agents that while in Tijuana COPPOLA was driving a 1947 Chrysler club coupe, California license No. V-13-948, which was believed to be a 1949 license.

DECLASSIFIED BY AUC 60324/BAW/RS/lbc
ON 09-27-2007

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

AUG

TELETYPE

b6
b7C
b7D

WASH 6 FROM SAN DIEGO VIA LOSA 7 1-19 PM

DIRECTOR, FBI AND SAC, MIAMI URGENT CONFIDENTIAL

ATTENTION L. B. NICHOLS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

FRANCISCO PAOLA COPPOLA, INFORMATION CONCERNING. REURLET JULY EIGHTEEN LAST AND MYLET JULY TWENTY ONE LAST. CAPTAIN [redacted] U.S.I. AND N.S., SAN YSIDRO, CALIFORNIA, ADVISED TODAY [redacted] ADVISED HIM THAT FRANCISCO PAOLA COPPOLA HAD BEEN ARRESTED ON JULY TWENTY TWO LAST IN MEXICO CITY D.F., MEXICO, AND WAS ORDERED DEPORTED TO ITALY ON JULY TWENTY NINE LAST, AND THAT IT IS BELIEVED THAT COPPOLA WAS ON THE LAST DATE GIVEN PASSAGE ON AVIONES GUES, MEXICO D.F. AIRLINE, DESTINATION LISBON, PORTUGAL, VIA MIAMI, FLORIDA. I. AND N.S. HERE STATES COPPOLA-S DEPARTURE FROM MIAMI CAN BE VERIFIED THROUGH OFFICES OF AVIONES GUES, MIAMI, FLORIDA. ABOVE BEING FURNISHED MIAMI HEREWITH FOR INFORMATION PENDING POSSIBLE BUREAU INSTRUCTIONS. ABOVE SOURCE FURTHER ADVISED [redacted] QUOTE THREE FINGERS FRANK UNQUOTE CARROLLO, A KANSAS CITY FRIEND OF COPPOLA WHO WAS IN TIJUANA WITH HIM, IS NOW IN CUSTODY U.S.I. AND N.S., NEW ORLEANS. RUC

RICHARDSON

END

MM BEING ADVISED

LA R 6 A WA·ED

RECORDED - 95 62-74631-7
SE 27 1950
AUG 9 1950

INDEXED - 95

56 SEP 1 1950

CRIME REC.

cc Mr. Nichols

RECEIVED - DIRECTOR
F B I
U. S. DEPT OF JUSTICE
AUG 7 5 05 PM '50

RECEIVED-NICHOLS
F B I
U.S DEPT OF JUSTICE
AUG 31 10 21 AM '50

RECEIVED-LADD
F B I
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
AUG 31 9 28 AM '50

RECEIVED-NICHOLS
F B I
U.S DEPT OF JUSTICE
AUG 7 5 48 PM '50

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 08-27-2007 BY AUC 60324/BAW/RS/lbc

August 8, 1950 URGENT

SAC, MIAMI

FRANCISCO PAOLA COPPOLA, INFORMATION CONCERNING. RE SAN DIEGO TEL SEVENTH LAST. DETERMINE FACTS RE SUBJECT'S DEPARTURE THROUGH MIAMI AND SUTEL.

HOOVER

FCH:mb

Tolson
Ladd
Clegg
Glavin
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Harbo
Belmont
Mohr
Tele. Room
Nease
Gandy

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 09-27-2007 BY AUC 60324/BAW/RS/lbc

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

b6
b7C

TO : Mr. Tolson

FROM : Mr. Nichols

SUBJECT: FRANCISCO PAOLA COPPOLA

950

Tolson
Ladd
Clegg
Glavin
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Harbo
Belmont
Mohr
Tele. Room
Nease
Gandy

You will recall that Senator Kefauver asked us to interview Coppola, who he heard was in Tijuana, Mexico. We tried to do this. Coppola had skipped Tijuana and we later learned that he had been arrested and deported. He arrived in Madrid on July 24 and left immediately for Rome via TWA. Kefauver wondered if we could find out where he was and he would ask the Embassy to interview him.

I have told the Senator that we did not know where he was in Rome and suggested that he communicate directly with the State Department, as undoubtedly they could find him.

LBN:MP

40-1-4637-8

RECORDED - 3

SEP 18 1950

399

56 SEP 26 1950

SEP 7 1 54 PM '50
REC'D - CH CLK. F.B.I.
REC'D PERSONNEL UNIT
RECEIVED DIRECTOR F B I U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
RECEIVED 5 36 PM '51
F B I U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
RECEIVED 6 58 PM '50
MR. ROSEN
SEP 2 4 27 PM '50
F B I
DEPT. OF JUSTICE
SEP 1 9 06 AM '50
RECEIVED-TOLSON
J. EDGAR HOOVER F B I
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
BRIEFING SECTION
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
9 32 AM '50
MR. JONES
SEP 25 9 19 AM '50
RECEIVED
SEP 2 11 55 AM '50
F B I
RECEIVED-TOLSON
F B I
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 09-27-2007 BY AUC 60324/BAW/RS/lbc

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

AUG 8 1950

TELETYPE

FBI MIAMI 8-8-50 5-36 PM HSB

DIRECTOR.....U R G E N T

FRANCISCO PAOLA COPPOLA, INFORMATION CONCERNING. b6 b7C

REURTEL AUGUST EIGHT. SUBJECT ARRIVED MIAMI VIA AEROVIAS GUEST, JULY TWENTYTHREE LAST, DEPARTED SAME DATE ARRIVING IN MADRID JULY TWENTYFOUR, AND LEFT IMMEDIATELY FOR ROME VIA TWA. RUC.

MASON

A AND H PLS

638PM OK FBI WASH DC CCW

40-74697-9

RECORDED - 3

SEP 18 1950

cc.

RECEIVED
INVESTIGATIVE

SEP 25 3 33 PM

RECEIVED
FBI
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

SEP 11 9 32 AM '50
BRIEFING SECTION
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
SEP 25 2 53 PM '50
ACCTG. AND FRAUD SECTION
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED-NICHOLS
FBI
DEPT OF JUSTICE

AUG 9 9 19 AM '50

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE [illegible] BY [illegible]

COPIED FOR FOIPA

SERIALS	REQUESTERS FULL NAME	COMPUTER NUMBER	DATE	BY
4	[redacted]	5298	4-30	39

b6
b7C